

CLAIMS

1. An apparatus for modifying the image stream during a video conference session to replace background portions of the image, comprising:
 - an image capture device;
 - a digital signal processor configured for operating on the video stream from said image capture device; and
 - programming executable on said digital signal processor for,
 - discerning the portion of the image representing the user from the background images,
 - replacing at least portions of said background image with a user selected background
2. An apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein said background image can comprises a static image, an animated stream, or a video stream.
3. An apparatus as recited in claim 1, further comprising a control processor configured with programming for capturing user settings for the time and channel over which video and/or audio content is to be received for the system.
4. An apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein said discerning operates in response to multiple cues selected from the group of visual object-to-background cues consisting of feature detection, edge detection, focal length, detected motion, and pattern matching from data collected during a calibration interval.

5. A system for selecting hairstyles within a hair salon or equivalent, comprising:
- a digital camera adapted for obtaining images of patron hairstyles;
 - a user interface;
 - a computer operably connected to said digital camera; and
 - programming operable on said computer for,
 - identifying a patron,
 - retrieving previous hairstyle images of said patron from a database,
 - storing said hairstyle image in said data base.
6. A system as recited in claim 5, further comprising:
- a web site associated with said hair salon, or equivalent, having a first part accessible to anyone and a second part accessible only to patrons;
 - programming on said web site for,
 - logging in patrons capable of accessing a second part;
 - retrieving a list of available images of said patron;
 - indicating preferences toward select hairstyles or aspects thereof.
7. A system as recited in claim 6, wherein indicating preferences comprises the sorting of images to obtain preferred hairstyles.
8. A system as recited in claim 6, wherein indicating preferences comprises associated textual comments with one or more of the images.

9. A system as recited in claim 6, wherein programming is adapted to accept patron appointments.

10. A system as recited in claim 6, wherein programming is adapted to allow said patron to communicate information as to expected day of arrival, if appointments may not be set.

11. A system as recited in claim 6, wherein programming is adapted to allow said patron to queue up for a particular day and time if conventional appointments are not available.

12. A system as recited in claim 6, wherein said web site provides a database of generally hairstyle images, and the programming on said web site allows said patron to indicate one or more images that are either indicative of a similar style or aspect of that style desired, or a style or style aspects that the patron wants to stay clear of.

13. A system as recited in claim 12, wherein said programming on said web site is adapted to accept user comment information and store it with said images thereby allowing said patron to better communicate a hairstyle to a stylist at said hair salon.

14. An apparatus for cuing stage personnel, comprising:
a transmitter capable of transmitting to a plurality of receivers;

a receiver adapted to generate an alerting signal to a stage hand, actor, actress, or other party requiring a cue, in response to a coded signal from said transmitter which directs said transmission to said receiver.

15. An apparatus as recited in claim 14, wherein said alerting signal comprises a vibration generated by said receiver to alert said party.

16. An apparatus as recited in claim 14, wherein said alerting signal comprises a sound produced by an audio transducer.

17. An apparatus as recited in claim 16, audio transducer is retained within an aural cavity mounted receiver.